

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 10 and 16, and cancel non-elected claims 22-29 without prejudice or admission as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous listings and versions of claims.

1.-9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A device for at least partial introduction into a body passage, the device comprising: a long, outer envelope body; a long inner body that is at least partially peripherally surrounded by the envelope body; and a control device that enables and impedes relative movement between the envelope body and the inner body to respectively impart flexibility and rigidity to the entire device in a controllable manner; wherein the control device is ~~itself~~ formed by the arrangement and embodiment of the envelope body and the inner body and comprises no additional mechanical means in an annular intermediate region between the envelope body and the inner body; the material of the envelope body and the inner body is flexible yet torsionally resistant; and the envelope body and the inner body have similarly-shaped polygonal cross sections such that the envelope body and the inner body can be rotated relative to one another by the control device in such a way that corners of the inner body make contact at least partially with an inner wall of the envelope body to impart greater rigidity to the envelope body.

11. (previously presented) A device according to claim 10; wherein the envelope body and the inner body each have a hexagonal cross section, are arranged concentrically to one another, and are dimensioned in such a way that the inner body, with the two bodies in their mutually rotated state, makes contact at all of its corners with an inner wall of the envelope body.

12. (previously presented) A device according to claim 11; wherein the control device controls the introduction of a pressure medium, or the application of a vacuum, to the annular intermediate region between the envelope body and the inner body.

13. (previously presented) A device according to claim 12; wherein the envelope body and the inner body are comprised of a magnetizable material, or are provided with a magnetizable coating.

14. (previously presented) A device according to claim 10; wherein the control device controls the introduction of a pressure medium, or the application of a vacuum, to the annular intermediate region between the envelope body and the inner body.

15. (previously presented) A device according to claim 10; wherein the envelope body and the inner body are comprised of a magnetizable material, or are provided with a magnetizable coating.

16. (currently amended) A device for at least partial introduction into a body passage, the device comprising: a long, outer envelope body; a long inner body that is at least partially peripherally surrounded by the envelope body; and a control device that enables and impedes relative movement between the envelope body and the inner body to respectively impart flexibility and rigidity to the entire device in a controllable manner; wherein the control device is ~~itself~~ formed by the arrangement and embodiment of the envelope body and the inner body and comprises no additional mechanical means in an annular intermediate region between the envelope body and the inner body; and the control device and the envelope body and the inner body are embodied in such a way that magnetic fields of different polarity can be alternately generated along the length of the envelope body and along the length of the inner body for the selective production of a mutual attraction of the two bodies at a location within the body passage.

17. (previously presented) A device according to claim 16; wherein the magnetic fields are capable of being produced by the application of an electrical voltage to the envelope body and the inner body.

18. (previously presented) A device according to claim 17; wherein the control device controls the introduction of a pressure medium, or the application of a vacuum, to the annular intermediate region between the envelope body and the inner body.

19. (previously presented) A device according to claim 18; wherein the envelope body and the inner body are comprised of a magnetizable material, or are provided with a magnetizable coating.

20. (previously presented) A device according to claim 16; wherein the envelope body and the inner body are comprised of a magnetizable material, or are provided with a magnetizable coating.

21. (previously presented) A device according to claim 20; wherein the magnetic fields are capable of being produced by the application of an electrical voltage to the envelope body and the inner body.

22.-29. (canceled)